

degrees from Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and the University of Indianapolis; he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Colby College. He was also the Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University. During his career Mr. Raspberry, has also served as a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Capitol Press Club, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. William Raspberry for his exceptional contributions to our community and to our society as whole.

HONORING HOLLIS WATKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. Thompson of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Hollis Watkins who was born in July 29, 1941, in Lincoln County, Mississippi near the town of Summit. He is the youngest and twelfth child of sharecroppers, John and Lena Watkins who were able to purchase a farm during 1949.

Mr. Watkins graduated from Lincoln County Training School in 1960. During his youth, he attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) youth meetings led by Medgar Evers. He met Robert Parris Moses, commonly known as Bob Moses, who was organizing for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961. Mr. Watkins joined SNCC and began canvassing potential voters around McComb, Mississippi. He participated in McComb's first sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter and was jailed for 34 days. During his time in jail, he was threatened on several occasions, including once being shown a noose and told that he would be hung that night. Later, his participation in a walk out at McComb's colored high school led to 39 more days in jail.

Mr. Watkins' activism had a personal price, as many of his extended family ostracized him and would not recognize him in public for fear of losing their jobs in white reprisals.

Veron Dahmer, president of the Forrest County, Mississippi NAACP asked SNCC for help with voter registration and Mr. Watkins moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to help with that project. He worked half days at Dahmer's sawmill to pay his way, and spent the rest of the time organizing voter registration projects.

Mr. Watkins was one of many people spied upon by the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, which investigated civil rights workers and created files on them for government use. His name appears in the files 63 times. Some of the reports refer to him as a communist, although he had little idea what that even meant at the time.

Mr. Watkins traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey for the 1964 Democratic Party convention in support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), which attempted to unseat the regular Mississippi Democratic Party as the true representatives of the state.

He was present when Fannie Lou Hamer gave her testimony to the credentials committee, and later when Hamer and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. debated over whether the MFDP should accept the compromise of two seats at the convention offered by Lyndon Baines Johnson.

In 1988, Mr. Watkins returned to the Democratic Party National Convention as a delegate for Jesse Jackson, Sr.'s Presidential Campaign. Beginning in 1989 Mr. Watkins joined, and now serves as President of Southern Echo, a group dedicated to providing assistance to civil rights and education-reform groups throughout the south. He was honored by Jackson State University with a Fannie Lou Hamer Humanitarian Award in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hollis Watkins for his dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM LEE AND THE YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. William Lee and the YMCA of Greater New York for their impeccable efforts to provide support and services to all New Americans.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Dr. "Bill" Lee became a student leader at the Korean YMCA. As he immigrated with his young family to New York to complete his graduate medical education, Dr. Lee became aware of the unique challenges facing newly arrived immigrants and he has worked diligently over the past decades to combat these challenges.

Bill Lee has served as a board member of the YMCA of New York City from 1982–1996 and again since 2005. He also served on the YMCA of the USA Board of Directors from 1995–2004, and continues to have a lifelong relationship with the YMCA both in Korea and in the United States. With support from Dr. Lee and others, the YMCA of Greater New York established New American Welcome Centers throughout the City, including the Flushing YMCA in my Congressional District. These Centers help immigrants achieve literacy, cultural competence, and self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, drawing on his own experience as a young immigrant who faced much adversity, Dr. Lee was able to turn his experiences into positive solutions for the newly arrived immigrants he saw in New York City. He successfully fundraised and organized the Korean Center of the Flushing YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greater New York that served new Korean immigrants with English-language classes and programs for newly arrived Korean families. As organizing chair of the International branch of the New York City YMCA, he championed the New Americans program, carefully outlining the needs of new immigrants, and the importance of working collaboratively with a strong referral network of service providers. He also closely monitored the

initial years of the start-up and roll-out of six centers.

This week, Dr. Lee and Jack Lund, President of the YMCA of Greater New York, are visiting Washington, DC, to participate in a "Champions of Change" celebration hosted by the White House in honor of the Obama Administration's commitment to expanding programs and services to the immigrant population of the New York City.

A renowned cardiologist, Dr. Lee never fails to give back to his community. He has shaped one of the most successful programs in the YMCA through his belief that helping new arrivals succeed will be repaid many times over in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in paying tribute to Dr. William Lee and to the YMCA of Greater New York for their years of assistance to Korean Americans and to the entire City of New York.

HONORING MRS. SARAH KIMBROUGH HART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart, a remarkable public servant.

Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart, a 90 year old native of Lexington, Miss., who is the widow of the late Harrison aka "HB" Hart, a well-known farmer and strong community leader. She was born May 9, 1922 to Daniel and Rebecca Kimbrough of the Shady Grove Community in the hills of Holmes County. She is the third of eight children (all females). Seven of whom are deceased.

Mrs. Hart and her husband marched and protested injustices during the civil rights movement in Holmes County. They were among the very early African Americans who registered to vote after meeting would-be opposition for the County Registrar.

Mrs. Hart often shares the story of how the Voting Registrar would ask them idiotic questions like "how many bubbles are in a bar of soap" or "how many strains of hairs are on a person's head" just to discourage them from registering, but they would not give up. They kept returning to the Holmes County Court House until they were allowed to register. She and her husband also housed civil rights workers (freedom riders) from up north in their home. They contributed money and resources to the movement. They were also integral parts of the efforts to bring the first black doctor to Holmes County. Mrs. Hart is the mother of eight adult children, one deceased, and a number of grands, greatgrands and great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.